

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides novel methods for marking, authenticating and identifying articles that make use of photoluminescent materials, as well as articles marked by these methods.

An article marked according to the present invention has a unique sequence of patterns, including invisible photoluminescent patterns, wherein each pattern has a position in the sequence, and each invisible photoluminescent pattern is characterized by an excitation wavelength, an emission wavelength, and a time delay, and at least two of said photoluminescent patterns have mutually different excitation wavelengths or time delays.